



VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
175 W. 5th St., 2nd floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

Minutes of the Meeting

July 30, 2018, 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Members present: Frank Guevara (Board Liaison), Chair Jeff Allen, Vice Chair Jim Frost, Terry Porter and Kelly Maxwell. Also present: recording secretary Sally Gibson. Members excused: John Pi, James Willingham and Joseph Mena. Members absent: Matthew Knox, Dave Soto and Danny Marquez.

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Jeff Allen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – Members reviewed minutes of the meeting held March 26, 2018. Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Frank Guevara gave an overview of recent County VA activities:

- One Office Assistant and 4 VSO vacancies have been filled. The new VSOs will complete their CalVet training by the end of October. They will also attend National training next June, making them eligible for cross-accreditation.
- Veterans Diploma Project will be held at Serrano High School in Phelan on Wednesday, 11/7/18 (handout attached to original minutes.) The VDP awards high school diplomas to veterans who left school to join the military during war and Japanese-Americans who did not graduate due to detainment in an internment camp. Application deadline is 9/7/18.
- Frank met 2nd District Veteran Liaison Ben Lopez, who recently toured the Rancho Cucamonga VA office.
- A VA claims-assistance event is planned for November in the 4th District, possibly at the American Legion post in Chino. A similar event held earlier in the year in the 1st District was quite successful.
- The Rancho Cucamonga VA office is being remodeled to add another VSO office, with the work occurring on Fridays and Saturdays, so as not to disrupt regular office hours. The work should be completed by 9/10/18.
- The San Bernardino VA office is moving to 222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3rd Floor, in San Bernardino. The current office on 5th Street will be closed on Friday, 9/7/18 and the new location will be open Tuesday, 9/11/18.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Jeff Allen – Jeff led a brief discussion of the pros and cons of eBenefits.

Kelly Maxwell – Kelly has not had any luck getting a response from the VA Loma Linda Ambulatory Care Center with regards to Neurofeedback.

Jim Frost – Jim distributed a copy of a flyer regarding service members still located in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (copy attached to original minutes) from an organization that is trying to locate family members and loved ones of veterans who never came home. See Jim for more info.

Terry Porter – Terry reported on the 30th Run for the Wall, an annual event honoring and remembering POWs and KIAs. More than 1600 riders were registered in Ontario, and by journey's end in Washington, D.C., there were more than 1 million participants. Terry also spoke about RAMP, the VA's Rapid Appeals Modernization Program, in which veterans appealing their VA decisions can get a rapid decision, but forgo any further appeals.

FROM THE FLOOR

Frank Guevara introduced Merlene Steinbeck, who is the new CalVet Local Interagency Network Coordinator for the Inland Empire, working out the San Bernardino County VA office.

Jeff Allen introduced Joey Jerome from zero8hundred, a charitable organization helping military members and their families transition to the civilian world. Mr. Jerome passed out a flyer outlining zero8hundred's offerings (copy attached to original minutes) and gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about their organization.

DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next VAC meeting will be held Monday, 9/24/18 at 3:00 p.m. in the County VA conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeff Allen
Chairman